

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 171

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to designate April 26 - May 3, 2009, as "National Safe Kids Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death and disability among children ages fourteen and under; and

WHEREAS, more than six million children in this age bracket are the victims of unintentional injuries each year; and

WHEREAS, emergency rooms experience nearly 2.4 million visits from children ages fourteen and under each summer; and

WHEREAS, for these children, the leading unintentional injuries are falls, bike injuries, motor vehicle occupancy injuries, fire and burn injuries, and poisonings; and

WHEREAS, these injuries have enormous financial, emotional, and social effects on children, their families, their communities, and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that as many as ninety percent of accidental injuries affecting this age group are preventable; and

WHEREAS, reducing the barriers to attaining safety devices such as smoke alarms, bicycle helmets, car seats, and booster seats, increasing educational efforts directed toward children who are at high risk for injury, and improving the safety of a child's environment are preventative strategies for keeping children safe from unintentional injuries; and

WHEREAS, Safe Kids Worldwide and Safe Kids Tennessee promote childhood injury prevention by uniting diverse groups into local and state coalitions, developing innovative educational tools and strategies, initiating public policy changes, promoting new technology, and raising awareness through the media; and

WHEREAS, in this same spirit, Safe Kids Worldwide, with the support of Founding Sponsor Johnson & Johnson, is launching Safe Kids Week 2009, "Raising Safe Kids: One Stage at a Time," which examines a child's development (biological, cognitive, physiological, physical, and behavioral), its impact on a child's risk for unintentional injuries, and the steps caregivers can take to promote a safe environment; and

WHEREAS, Safe Kids Tennessee has planned special childhood injury prevention activities and community-based events for "Safe Kids Week 2009," in an effort to educate families about summer safety; and

WHEREAS, their praiseworthy efforts on behalf of our young people will give children in communities throughout the State the opportunity for a safe and positive future; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly proudly join Safe Kids Tennessee, as well as concerned citizens across this State, in raising awareness of accidental injury, death, and disability among children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate April 26 - May 3, 2009, as "National Safe Kids Week" in Tennessee, and we urge all citizens to join with Safe Kids Tennessee in working toward a safe and positive future for all children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.